

1844, and the south building in 1854, and these two buildings stand forty-seven feet apart. It was in this space the excavation was made. These seeds have been lying dormant in all probability since 1844, as students do not generally permit such plants to grow within forty-seven feet of the college.

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#### Dispersion of seeds in *Euphorbia*.

It may be worth noting, in connection with the interesting remarks of Dr. Schneck on the dispersion of seeds of *Euphorbia marginata* (page 226), that the phenomenon is recorded in connection with other Euphorbiaceæ, especially in a small Mexican tree, there known, according to Hernandez, as "Quauhtcatlatzin," which I suppose might be translated as the "creaking tree." In view of this Mexican term, Linnæus seems to have given it the name of *Hura crepitans*. De Candolle (*Prodromus* 18, p. 1229) remarks on it: "*Cocca* \* \* *valde crepitanter dissilientia seminaque deicientia*."

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#### Systematic Botany—A correction.

In the note on "the old and new botany," in the October GAZETTE, an error occurs, namely, the omission of the word *systematic* before botany in the seventh line from the last. As it stands, it reads that the general subject, *botany*, is falling into disfavor, which I am sure is not true. But it is quite clear to me that systematic botany is considered as quite detached from the living processes going on in plants, and, therefore, falling into disfavor.

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### CURRENT LITERATURE.

*Hepaticæ Americanae*; prepared by Lucien M. Underwood and O. F. Cook. Decades I and II. Syracuse, N. Y. 1887.

Under the above title Dr. Underwood, of Syracuse University, and Mr. Cook have begun issuing a set of *exsiccatae* for the special encouragement of students undertaking the collection of Hepaticæ. As no preface to the set has been issued, we are authorized to say that the object of the publishers has been:

1. To issue this preliminary set more for the assistance of beginners than as a matter of *special* interest to those who have long studied the Hepaticæ. Later numbers may have a wider interest.

2. By issuing a *few* numbers to bring the price<sup>1</sup> within the reach of the most moderate means.

3. To issue representative (though common) species.<sup>2</sup> The four

<sup>1</sup> The set of twenty numbers will be sent postpaid for \$1.25. Address Dr. Lucien M. Underwood, Syracuse, N. Y.

<sup>2</sup> The twenty numbers are as follows: *Riccia natans*, *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Conoccephalus conicus*, *Anthoceros lævis*, *Blasia pusilla*, *Steetsia Lyellii*, *Frullania Grayana*, *Lejeunia serpyllifolia*, var. *Americana*, *Madotheca porella*, *Radula complanata*, *Ptilidium ciliare*, *Bazzania trilobata*, *Trichocolea tomentella*, *Lepidozia reptans*, *Kautia trichomanis*, *Geocalyx graveolens*, *Cephalozia curvifolia*, *Jungermania Schraderi*, *Scapania nemorosa*, *Plagiochila porelloides*.